

rollcall No. 241 and 242. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall No. 241, and "yes" on rollcall No. 242.

THE CASE OF MALACHY
MCALLISTER

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my steadfast support of H.R. 2827, a Private Bill for the relief of Malachy McAllister, Nicola McAllister, and Sean Ryan McAllister offered by my friend from New Jersey, Mr. ROTHMAN. I would also like to recognize my colleagues Mr. ENGEL and Mr. KING of New York for their advocacy on behalf of the McAllisters.

Malachy McAllister is an Irish Catholic national who fled to the United States from Belfast in 1988. He left his homeland and moved to New York City with his wife and four children. Since then, Mr. McAllister has been living in the New York metropolitan area, building a new, safe home for his family, abiding by the laws of our land, and contributing to society.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration seems intent on deporting him to a country where his life will be put in danger.

While in Northern Ireland, Mr. McAllister did participate in an Irish National Liberation Army attack on a member of the Royal Ulster Constabulary and played a role in planning another attack. He was imprisoned from 1981 to 1985, and has paid his debt to society.

When released from prison, he and his family were attacked by British loyalists who fired 26 shots into his home. After fleeing to the United States he applied for political asylum, which was denied to him in 2000 and to his children and deceased wife in 2003. The McAllisters have appealed the decisions to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, but they have no further legal options if the appeal is denied.

The House and Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff should act to ensure that Mr. McAllister and his family can stay in America. H.R. 2827 makes Malachy, Nicola and Sean eligible for permanent resident status and halts pending deportation proceedings. If Mr. McAllister is returned to Northern Ireland, he will be in constant and immediate danger of persecution because of his political and religious beliefs and retribution for his past affiliations.

As a member of the House Judiciary Committee, I believe the McAllisters should be granted political asylum. In the wake of September 11, we must make sure to balance security concerns with the historical role of the United States as a place of safe harbor for individuals fleeing political oppression. Mr. McAllister is the first person to express regret for his past actions and sorrow that they have led to his family's current position. He and his children deserve to live free of fear and continue building their American Dream.

IN HONOR OF MARDELLE
RETZLOFF

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor and recognition of Mrs. Mardelle Retzloff, upon the occasion of her retirement following forty-five years of outstanding service and ministry to others, in and out of the classroom.

Inspired by a true calling of spiritual and humanitarian duty, Mrs. Retzloff initiated her journey as an educator in 1954, when she began working at Jack and Jill Nursery School in her native city of Aurora, IL. In 1960, she earned a Bachelor's degree in Education. That same year, she accepted a position at Milwaukee Lutheran High School, where she taught English and history. She taught there, and within the Milwaukee Public School District, for nearly twenty years before moving to Cleveland.

In 1979, Mrs. Retzloff joined the staff at St. Paul Lutheran School in Westlake. Her devoted service at St. Paul's has enhanced the lives of two generations of children in her kindergarten classroom. Beyond the classroom, Mrs. Retzloff, her husband, Richard, and her children, Barbara and John, have offered their strength and hope to the most vulnerable children of our community. As foster parents to thirty-six children, Mr. and Mrs. Retzloff have given these children a loving, stable home, offering light and hope where none existed before.

Mr. Speaker and Colleagues, please join me in honor and recognition of Mardelle Retzloff, for her years of dedicated service as teacher, mentor, foster parent and friend. Her commitment, kindness and caring for the children of our community has served to lift the spirits of countless individuals, and will forever reflect faith, hope and light throughout our entire community. I wish Mrs. Retzloff and her family an abundance of peace, health and happiness, today, and in all the years to come.

INTRODUCTION ON THE GROSS
OVERCHARGING UNDERMINES
GASOLINE ECONOMICS, OR
GOUGE ACT

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 16, 2005

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Gross Overcharging Undermines Gasoline Economics, or GOUGE Act.

As the travel season approaches, many children are out of school and families are happily looking forward to vacations. What they won't be happy about is the skyrocketing cost of getting to their destinations. Unfortunately, whether traveling on the road or in the air, this summer's vacationers will be hit hard by the escalating cost of gasoline.

From March to April of 2005, the cost to fill up a tank of gas rose by more than 10 percent. That's more than twice the increase for the same period last year! But the detrimental

effects of high gas prices don't just stop at the pump—they domino throughout every segment of the economy. For a basic item like a loaf of bread, it costs more to fertilize the wheat, more to transport the wheat to the baker, more for the plastic bag to package the bread, and more to get it to the grocery store.

Meanwhile, President Bush has suggested little to lessen the impact of high gas prices. In fact, the President doesn't believe anything can be done. In April 2005, he was quoted as saying, "An energy bill wouldn't change the price at the pump today. I know that and you know that."

With all due respect, Mr. President, plenty can and must be done. The Internet is full of comments from people reporting sudden gasoline price increases. In some cases, consumers have witnessed a 10-cent increase in less than 24 hours. There is no possible reason or explanation for these overnight increases. While states across the country are doing what they can to deal with complaints, they have limited recourse to make lasting, beneficial changes until there are consistent federal guidelines.

The GOUGE Act that I am introducing today addresses federal guidelines against gas gouging in four parts. First, the bill imposes a penalty on gas retailers who raise prices on any given day at a rate that is twice the inflation rate. Prices are compared to a base price index derived from the contract price on the New York Mercantile Exchange and adjusted for regional variances. These variances take into account stringent pollution controls, altitude requirements, and special reformulations across the country. The penalties would be no less than \$5000 for the 1st offense, no less than \$10,000 for the 2nd offense, and no less than \$25,000 for the 3rd offense or thereafter.

A steady supply of oil is critical to cost effective gasoline production as well as national security. The second part of my bill helps to ensure this supply through use of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

Following the oil embargo in 1975, the SPR was created to provide a domestic inventory of crude oil, and was intended to be used in emergency situations when the supply of crude oil to the United States is disrupted. The first such use of the SPR was in 1991 during the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait by then President George H. W. Bush.

The current Administration, however, has a very different policy on the SPR. In November 2001, President George W. Bush ordered the SPR be filled to its current 700 million barrel capacity with oil from the government's share federally leased oil sites. Since then, maintaining this capacity has had a detrimental effect on oil price increases. First, continuing to fill the SPR at the same time it is 98% full takes oil from the open market, decreasing supply and thereby potentially increasing prices. Second, these additional fills to the SPR are being made while crude prices remain high and volatile. My bill suspends these new fills and releases an additional million barrels per day onto the open market for 30 days to significantly ease market concerns that lead to artificially inflated prices. The laws of supply and demand clearly support this idea as a basic tenet of economics.

Third, the GOUGE Act directs the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) to report on anti-trust practices throughout the oil industry and